



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. JOSEPH MAN SENTENCED FOR ENTICING A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a St. Joseph, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for enticing a minor for sex.

Jason E. Stephens, 25, of St. Joseph, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple to five years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Stephens** to forfeit to the government a Hewlett-Packard computer and five CD-ROM disks that were used to commit the offense.

On Oct. 25, 2004, **Stephens** pleaded guilty to using a computer to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity. **Stephens** admitted that he used an Internet chat room between April 13 and 21, 2004, to entice a 14-year-old girl to engage in sex. Over a period of several days, **Stephens** had sexually-oriented on-line conversations with the girl, Graves said, who was actually an undercover law enforcement officer. On April 21, 2004, **Stephens** made arrangements to meet the girl at her home, and was arrested when he arrived.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Buchanan County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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